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man either to serve in the militia or to join the volunteers, and this would almost of necessity be in addition to our present army. It is claimed, by the advocates of this new departure, that it would render England absolutely free from all fear of invasion.

"I will not now dwell upon the vastly increased cost even upon our present enormous expenditure, or attempt to answer the question whether it would be possible for the country to bear the burden without absolute ruin, but I am anxious to point out to your readers one consideration, with which I will close this short article.

"If our ministers are ready to conduct a war of extermination in South Africa, and join in a policy of adventure in China, and are constantly being incited by irresponsible advisers in the jingo press to reprove France, beard Germany, and meet and thwart Russia in every part of the world,—and that at a time when England itself is denuded of troops,—to what lengths might they not be tempted to carry matters if, behind the professional army we now find so costly, a million or more conscripts could be called out in support of any policy upon which they might decide? Under these circumstances it is to be feared that there would be no hope of substituting for expansion of empire, an indefinite increase of expenditure, and a haughty and provocative foreign policy,—all backed by the conscription,—the ancient watchwords of the Liberal party, in which, after all, the prosperity and real greatness of our country are bound up: *Peace, Retrenchment and Reform.*"

Book Table.

THE LEOPARD'S SPOTS. By THOMAS DIXON, JR.
New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.

This is a story of the race problem in the South from the close of the Civil War to the present. In no book that we have seen have the nature and difficulties of the problem been stated so well, except possibly in some aspects of it in one or two of Mr. Tourgée's works twenty-five years ago. But Mr. Dixon, a Southern man who lived many years in the North, understands and feels the essential elements of the problem from both sides as no man not having resided long in both sections can ever do.

"The Leopard's Spots" is a powerful story, into which the author has put much of the inner experiences of thought and feeling, some of them evidently most puzzling and not altogether agreeable, through which he has passed since the great struggle forty years ago. The story is full of life and action, and shows constructive ability of no commonplace order. The pathetic condition of the returned heart-broken, penniless soldiers of the Confederate army; the helpless position of the old aristocratic families, especially of women left widows, whose fortunes had been swept away; the chaotic situation, running often into lawlessness and lust, of the ignorant negro population who had been turned loose as full-fledged voters; the "carpet-bag" government with its amazing unwisdom and frequent low corruption; the temporary high-handed and financially ruinous negro domination; the violation of young girls by villainous negroes; the hot Southern blood; the organization, work and final dastardly perversion of Ku-Klux-ism; the well-

meant, but in considerable measure unintelligent early Northern attempts at negro education; the Southern prejudice and hatred of the North; the mutual alienation of the white and black races South,—all these Mr. Dixon has woven into his story with great naturalness, and with the evident purpose to be perfectly fair toward all the actors. There are touches here and there, however, which reveal the Southern man who cannot wholly understand the North.

No writer has described a mob doing its wild work of lynching—cold, hard, merciless, fierce even to dead silence, proceeding to do its ghastly work—with more forcibleness than Mr. Dixon. His painting of one of these scenes makes you feel that you are more dead than alive. But the story is also charged with the power and beauty of living human goodness and tenderness, and the masterful force of a great and noble love.

The latter part of the story, which deals with the more recent conditions in the new South, is not on the whole so satisfactory as the earlier portions. It is more fragmentary, goes by too large leaps, and suggests little that is enlightening towards a just and humane solution of the problem. Perhaps the author could think of little to suggest. If so, he is not alone in his perplexity.

We commend this book to those who wish to gain a clear insight into the character of the ugly problem which a century of slavery and a gigantic war left the nation, the toughness of which we have only just begun to realize and the solution of which we have scarcely begun.

Report of the American Friends' Peace Conference.

The Report of the American Friends' Peace Conference held in Philadelphia in December, 1901, has just been published. It is an octavo pamphlet of 234 pages, and contains all the papers read and the substance of all the discussions. Copies of the report may be had at the office of the American Peace Society at ten cents each. Postage and wrapping ten cents additional.

Members of the Permanent International Court of Arbitration.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY. — His Excellency Count Frédéric Schönborn, Doctor of Laws, President of the Imperial Court of Justice, former Minister of Justice, Member of the House of Lords of the Austrian Parliament, etc.; His Excellency M. D. De Szilagy, former Minister of Justice, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Hungarian Parliament, etc.; Count Albert Apponyi, Member of the Chamber of Magnates and of the Chamber of Deputies of the Hungarian Parliament, etc. M. Henri Lammasch, Doctor of Laws, Member of the House of Lords of the Austrian Parliament, etc.

BELGIUM. — His Excellency M. Beernaert, Minister, Member of the Chamber of Representatives, etc.; His Excellency Baron Lambermont, Minister, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Chevalier Descamps, Senator; M. Gustave Rolin-Jacquemyns, former Minister of the Interior.